harvest handling, planting of nutritional garden, training of farmers etc. This assistance is given on project basis on demand.

Improvement in the Yield of Aquaculture Farms

334. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are making any efforts to double the present yield per hectare from aquaculture farms;

(b) if so, the details of the steps proposed;

(c) whether any pilot projects are being introduced in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) The objective is to achieve a yield of 3 tonnes per hectare by 2002 AD against the present yield of 2.1 tonnes per hectare from inland fish farming. For increasing the present yield from aquaculture, the Government have taken up production oriented programmes for both freshwater and brackishwater aquaculture development through Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDAs) and Brackishwater Fish Farmers Development Agencies (BFDAs). The FFDAs are functioning in all states and the Union Territory of Pondicherry, while BFDAs are in operation in all coastal states and the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Production of Pulses

335. DR. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY:
PROF. NAUNIHAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that although there has been noticeable increase in the production of wheat and rice in the country, there has been no significant rise in the production of pulses during the past two decades;

(b) the steps taken to increase the production of pulses and make it available to the poorer sections of people; and

(c) whether any survey has been made after 1990 to identify, in terms of weight the per capita consumption of pulses in the urban and rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There has been no significant rise in production of pulses.

To increase the production of pulses a centrally sponsored 'National Pulses Development Project (NPDP)' is being implemented through which assistance is provided to farmer so as to motivate them to use required inputs like improved seeds, farms implements, sprinkler irrigation sets, micro-nutrients, etc. Besides, field demonstrations on farmers holdings and trainings for the farmers are also being organised for the efficient transfer of pulses production technology.

(c) As per Consumer Expenditure, National Sample Survey, 5th Quinquennial Survey, 50th Round 1993-94, the average per capita consumption of pulses for Rural & Urban sector was estimated at 9.25 kg & 10.46 kg per annum respectively.

New Shatabdi Express for Delhi-Amritsar

336. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce any new Shatabdi Express between Delhi-Amritsar and Amritsar-Delhi via Jalandhar during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to operational and resource constraints.

Demand for increase of reservation quota from Dahod and Godhara

337. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a persistant demand to increase the reservation quota from Dahod and Godhara railway stations in various trains;

(b) if so, the details of existing reservation quota for various trains from these stations;

(c) whether Government propose to increase the quota of reservation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (d) There was demand to increase reservation quota from Godhra Station only. The reservation quota available at this station is as under:

Train No.	Sleeper Class
9020 Dehradun-Mumbai Express	20
9019 Mumbai-Dehradun Express	4
9023 Mumbai-Firozpur Janata Express	6
2925 Mumbai-Amritsar Paschim Express	4
9165 Ahmedabad-Muzaffarpur Sabarmati Express	2
Upto Ujjain	2
1269 Rajkot-Bhopal Express	4
2471 Mumbai-Jammu Express	6
2477 Hapa-Jammu Express	6
2475 Rajkot-Jammu Sarvodaya Express	8
2473 Ahmedabad-Jammu Sarvodaya Express	8
6335 Gandhidham-Trivandrum Express	10
5063 Lucknow-Mumbai Avadh Express	4
5064 Mumbai-Lucknow Avadh Express	4
5045 Ahmedabad-Gorakhpur Express	2
2962 Indore-Mumbai Avantika Express	2

Due to limited availability of reserved accommodation and full utilisation of quotas at the existing quota holding stations, there is no proposal at present to enhance these quotas.

New Technique for Rice Production

338. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Scientists at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and International Rice Research Institute have put their heads together to produce 'Super Rice Plany' that may increase the yield;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Indian Council of Agricultural Research had already produced a new hybrid variety that may increase the yield by one tonne per hectare; and

(d) if so, the details regarding the new technique for growing vegetables and rice?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: (a) and (b) Scientists at International Rice Research Institute are working on the concept of super rice which it is believed would raise the yield levels of rice by 20-25. ICAR scientists are also working independently to develop rice variety with the same objective. Development of such a variety will involve remodelling of the rice plant structurally to bear heavy panicles with high grain number and high grain weight, more foliar growth during crop establishment, enhanced translocation capacity and less profuse tillering capacity. These component traits are already available among the rice germplasm and attempts are in progress to recombine these features through